

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APP. NO. 10/667,364**

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 15-17 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ain, et al (USP 6,442,638).

Claims 2, 5, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ain, et al (USP 6,442,638), and further in view of Holmquist et al (USP 6,553,444)

Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 19, 20, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ain, et al (USP 6,442,638), and further in view of Harris et al (USP 6,684,283) and Holmquist et al (USP 6,553,444).

Claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ain, et al (USP 6,442,638), and further in view of Hanson (USP 6,442,734) and Holmquist et al (USP 6,553,444).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Analysis of the Claim Rejections

In rejecting claims 1, 8, 9, 15-17 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ain et al, the Examiner provides analysis purporting to show that Ain et al teaches all the elements of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that Ain et al does not anticipate the

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claims, because Ain et al does not teach all of the claimed elements of the invention. For example, claim 1 recites:

a medium insertion/removal sensing unit
which senses when a medium is inserted into the
first unit or when the medium is removed from
the first unit.

Ain et al does not teach sensing when a medium is inserted into the first unit or when the medium is removed from the first unit. In more detail, Ain et al teaches only that when a target disk drive has been unlatched and is about to be removed from the SSA RAID system, the controller 21 is notified (col. 4, lines 43-54). Similar arguments apply to claims 8, 9, 15-17 and 21-22.

Additionally, if it is assumed that the target disk drive 12 of Ain et al. corresponds to the memory stick reader 200 of the present application, the DASD 13 of Ain et al. would correspond to the memory stick 250 of the present application. However, the memory stick 250 can be inserted into or removed from the memory stick reader 200, whereas the DASD 13 is attached to the target disk drive 12 in a single body and cannot be detached.

At least for the above reasons, the present invention is patently distinguishable from the inventions disclosed in the cited references.

Also, for the claims that have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Ain and the secondary references do not teach or suggest the features discussed above.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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